

Hunting the Red Fox in Neighborhood of Washington

CAPITAL Has Eight Organized Hunt Clubs Within a Radius of Sixty Miles—First Organized Pack of Hounds Dates Back to 1885—Washingtonians Riding With the Master of Riding and Hunt Club—The Loudoun Hounds of Leesburg—Thousands of Dollars Spent on One Pack—Recently Imported English Hounds—The Rabbit Chase With Beagles Is a Popular Sport.

A SPECTACULAR sunset tinted the western sky a brilliant crimson, rendering the forest shades a hazy purple and crowned the full joys of a glorious winter day with its splendor. Munching oats in their stalls, the weary but well cared for horses were grateful for their feed and well earned rest, while their pink-coated riders lolled before the blazing hearth of a large log fire in the drawing room of a local club, smoking a splendid glow upon the cheeks of each their hunting clothes bespattered with mud, the companions of a dashing ride to hounds.

On the table lay the body of a big red fox, destined, when cleaned and mounted, to adorn, as others had before him, some point of vantage in the big room, a trophy of the day's sport, the serenity and courage of horse, rider and hound.

"What a grand run," one of the company was saying, "and a finer day could hardly be imagined." Another proposed a toast to fox hunting, the king of sports, as a waiter entered bearing a tray of glasses that clinked in merry music to his footsteps.

Such is the usual climax of any good day's ride to hounds, and around Washington there are many such. A radius of only sixty miles contains no less than eight organized hunt clubs with well trained packs of hounds—the Green Spring Valley and Elkridge, near Baltimore; the Warrenton, near Olympia, Orange County and Piedmont of Fauquier county, Va.; the Loudoun Hounds of Leesburg and the Hounds of the Riding and Hunt Club of Washington. During the hunting season these clubs hunt for the most part every day, and with few exceptions chase the live fox rather than ride to drags.

Considered in the inverse order to that in which named, John O. Evans is master of the local club, and prominent among those riding with him are Ralph Coffin and Joseph Devereux, the Danish minister, C. Brun, Lieut. J. N. Greeley, R. H. Chapman, Melvin H. Hassen, surveyor of the District of Columbia; Dennis Upton, William W. Corcoran, George Oakley Totten, Jr.; Count Bonde of the Swedish legation, Mrs. Sinclair Bowen, Miss Helen Buchanan, Admiral W. H. Brownson, Miss Ruth Anderson, Miss Mildred Greble, Miss Edith and Margaret Howard, Miss Ruth Hitchcock, Maj. Le Roy S. Lyons and many others.

Fox hunting with a regularly organized pack of hounds in the District dates back to 1885, when the Earl of Dulany hunted as master the Prince

Georges county hounds. Later Arthur Herbert, secretary of the British legation, hunted a pack of his own hounds, and in turn was succeeded by Samuel S. Howland with the Dumbline hounds, again succeeded by the Chevy Chase Hunt with Henry M. Earle as master. Among those riding in the early days were the Swedish minister, Baron J. W. W. von Killeher and Capt. Heiser of the German embassy, Senor Don Padilla of the Spanish legation, Senator Francis C. Newlands and his three daughters, Misses Edith, Janet and Frances; Miss Mathilda Townsend, William C. Eustis, Clarence Moore, Harry L. Page, Andrew Parker, H. R. R. Dulany, R. C. and F. L. Hudekoper, Glat Blair, J. Ford Thompson and others.

During one season Peter F. Collier, publisher, hunted with the Chevy Chase hounds, bringing with him a large string of fine hunters and several couples of hounds besides a trained staff.

The local club's hounds, however, have for the most part always run drags. At the present time the Earl of Dulany hunted as master the Prince

afternoon. On legal holidays they sometimes chase the live fox and then the meet is in the morning. The fields average between twenty and thirty at a meet and Montgomery county is usually the territory chosen, with an occasional excursion into Prince Georges county and even across the Potomac into Virginia.

Local horsemen also hunt at times with the Green Spring Valley and Elkridge clubs, and even so far from home as some of the five splendid packs of the clubs around Philadelphia. But for the greater part Washington horsemen, when visiting, patronize the nearby Virginia clubs, principally the Warrenton, Piedmont and Loudoun, where they have been most cordially welcomed. W. F. Wilbur is master of the Warrenton hounds and J. B. Thomas of New York of the Piedmont, upon which pack he has expended thousands of dollars in their kennel, breeding and training. The dogs are in color with white markings and are probably the only hounds of their type in the world, the nearest thing to them being the pack of black and tan of Samuel R. Riddle of Glen Riddle, Pa. Light in frame, with long slender legs and heads, they present a very racy appearance and are very fast.

Since then there has been no fox hunting around Leesburg until this fall, when it was revived by Edward B. McLean, with a recent importation of English hounds under the designation of the Loudoun hounds, kenneled at his place, the old Belmont estate, six miles from Leesburg, on the pike leading to Washington. They meet

the office live a life of misery. Their work has been easier since the beginning of the war, however. During piping times of peace thousands of American tourists came to England every year, and it seemed as if one in ten brought with him a legend of wealth left by some ancestor, and his search for it usually led him to the court. But the flow of letters from America keeps up just the same.

But the myth of unclaimed millions exists in England as well as in America, and in one month recently the supreme court of judicature received half a thousand letters of inquiry. All were written in vain. In none was there any evidence of a genuine claim. The writers are so informed, but that does not prevent them recurring to the matter, and the correspondence often develops into abuse and accusation of foul play on the part of court officials.

There was one famous case concerning the "Page estates." It concerned property of tremendous value which was left in litigation. Next-of-kin agents seized upon it and evidently worked it for all it was worth. They

Old Story of Fabulous Sums Lying Unclaimed in England Reaches Germany

Special Correspondence of The Star.

LONDON, December 23, 1915. LONDON is in a broad grin over a recent German discovery that England is nearing the end of her financial resources, and that, consequently, the government is about to lay its hands on a sum equalling \$5,000,000,000, which lies in the British court of chancery, an accumulation of years of money which no known owners.

It is a revival of an ancient myth, a recrudescence of a tale of fabulous sums held in chancery, belonging to one. The legend has gone the world over; literally thousands of persons, many of them Americans, have spent much time and vast sums to get a share of the mythical pile of glittering sovereigns which are supposed to be piled up in some subterranean vault of the courts of justice. The British government, the American government and every American minister and ambassador to England since Lowell have tried, for the benefit and protection of Americans who believe themselves heirs to these great sums which the world is clamoring to explode the myth, but in vain. Now Germany has got hold of it.

The Cologne Gazette, one of Germany's greatest newspapers, has made the discovery. A few days ago the Gazette said:

"In these days when the eyes of the English are fixed with ever-increasing anxiety on the dwindling pecuniary resources, the British government re-

kards with longing the closed money safes of the court of chancery. More than \$1,000,000,000 is guarded in the subterranean cellars of this government building. This money really is nobody's property, and no one has faced with the question of its disposal. It is a colossal sum, and the English lord chancellor of the exchequer has been asked to consider the advisability of violating the law by virtue of which this treasure has always been regarded as sacrosanct.

The state treasurer, we are informed, will shortly bring forward in the chamber of peers a proposal to enable him to utilize this money for immediate war purposes, though the question is bound to cause a lively discussion, and may lead to very serious discord.

"We have here an incontestable proof that England's financial resources are nearing depletion. Let us hold out but a few months longer, and bankruptcy will become unavoidable to the wealthiest state in the world."

The legend has been kept alive by the ceaseless activity of "next-of-kin agents," for the most part an unscrupulous lot who prey on the credulous and collect great fees for inventing claims.

Once in a long while they recover a bit of money, just about often enough to keep the game going. But for every successful research there are literally hundreds of failures. The victims, more often than not, are Americans, and the "next-of-kin" sharks operate on both sides of the Atlantic.

The latest German version of the old story is like all previous versions, wholly wrong. It is quite true that there is a fund here consisting of unclaimed sums, but the amount is a pittance compared to what is claimed for it.

The actual sums lying unclaimed do not total even a quarter million dollars, instead of five billions. And this amount has against it no force, and 4,999 separate and individual

ANCIENT British Myth Claimed to Show That England Is Financially Embarrassed by the War—Fund, According to Germans, Is Claimed to Amount to \$5,000,000,000—A Great Many Americans Have Been Victimized Over Alleged Fund—"Missing-Heir" and "Next-to-Kin" Agents Find It a Source of Profit.

claims. Half of them perhaps exceed \$750, and not more than one-seventh are in excess of \$10,000, and the largest individual sum is only \$25,000, so the tales of countless millions lying there, only waiting for the rightful heir to appear, have nothing in them.

Some of this money has been in the hands of the British law since the eighteenth century, and the chances are wholly in favor of its remaining there forever. And the authorities do nothing to encourage collection of claimants. There was a time when details were kept in the name of the sums lying dormant, but nowadays, in order to avoid a lot of bother, only the names of the persons and corporations directly interested in the accounts is published, with no details. The system is somewhat like that of the next-of-kin agents, but does not deter them from seeking heirs, ensnaring the unclaimed sums, but the amount is a pittance compared to what is claimed for it.

The functions of the old court of chancery were long ago taken over by the supreme court of justice, and it is that institution that issues the individual list of claims, and the officials of

the office live a life of misery. Their work has been easier since the beginning of the war, however. During piping times of peace thousands of American tourists came to England every year, and it seemed as if one in ten brought with him a legend of wealth left by some ancestor, and his search for it usually led him to the court. But the flow of letters from America keeps up just the same.

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PORTUGUESE VIEW OF WAR

THE following is a translation of an article entitled "Warning to the Heedless" that appeared in the Jornal do Comercio of Lisbon, Portugal, November 10:

"According to the annual statement of the treasury for the fiscal year 1914-1915 published in the Diario do Governo of November 2, 1915, the receipts of the treasury for that period were escudos 74,736,000 and the disbursements escudos 114,596,000, leaving a deficit of escudos 39,860,000. (One escudo equals about 70 cents at present exchange.)

"The report that accompanies the statement explains the causes of this financial perturbation by the general European economic crisis, on account of which only through the exchange of the escudo for the gold mark, 1,644,000 more than in the fiscal year 1912-1914.

"The indirect taxes brought in escudos 7,547,000 less, which is due to the decrease in the importation of various articles, and the present free entry of cereals and the falling off of shipping dues.

"It may therefore be said that our hostile attitude in the face of the present European crisis has cost our country during the last fiscal year the amount of escudos 40,000,000, and during the current year the loss on exchange will be greater, the decrease of escudos 39,860,000, and still more pronounced and much more money will be spent under the pretext of preparation for war, it is natural that the deficit for the fiscal year 1915-1916 will be another escudos 40,000,000, if not more. If we accept, however, this amount, the initial steps of our participation in the war will have cost our treasury the sum of escudos 80,000,000.

"On the other hand, the notes of the Bank of Portugal have suffered a depreciation of 65 per cent, and as escudos 105,000,000 of such notes are in circulation, it is evident that the country's wealth has suffered a loss of escudos 68,250,000, and this besides the increased cost of living in consequence of the confiscation and the lesser value of the Portuguese currency.

dear for its pretension to enter the war. Under these circumstances it would be just to explain to our poor nation what compensations are in sight for such sacrifices.

"Yes, all powers at war have their ambitions, their plans which they hope to carry out. France wants to conquer the provinces which she lost in 1870; England wants to get rid of a rival, Germany, so dangerous in her commercial and naval supremacy; Russia wants to proclaim her hegemony in Europe and to secure an open way through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, with Constantinople under her sway; Italy wants to realize her plan of irredentism; Serbia and Montenegro pretend to enlarge their frontiers by absorbing Albania and the Slavic provinces of Austria-Hungary; Germany hopes to see the realization of pan-Germanism and to obtain commercial and naval supremacy; Austria wants expansion in the Balkan states; Turkey desires to increase her empire in Asia and in the north of Africa; Bulgaria fights for the recovery of Macedonia. All entered the contest with more or less clearly defined plans.

"What does Portugal expect to get by entering the contest? Does she expect to extend her frontiers in Europe or to make new conquests beyond the sea? Have we to defend our violated neutrality, as Belgium, or fulfill obligations imposed upon us by standing treaties? If we had to fulfill some such duty toward England, our only ally, our troops would already be fighting where it would be necessary. Our guns and rifles were sent long ago where they were required.

"It becomes therefore necessary to tell the country where they want to take it and what it is going to do there, as no Portuguese would decline to make any sacrifice which the salvation or aggrandisement of the nation may require. A free people cannot be driven from its soil, and it is not in the slaughter house, as it may please its rulers. It is therefore a duty to explain to our people where they want to take us and what we are there to do, and if we are to leave our homes, be it so decided, and an end be put to these uncertainties which disturb our national life, causing so many useless expenses that lead us to perdition."



THE ROYAL COURT OF JUSTICE, THE COST OF WHICH, \$5,000,000, CAME FROM THE INTEREST OF FUNDS LYING DORMANT IN ENGLAND, INCLUDING THE "UNCLAIMED MILLIONS" WHICH "MISSING HEIRS" SEEK.



A HUNT MEET AT EDGEWOOD, NEAR UPPERVILLE, VA.



A COUPLE OF VIRGINIA BEAGLES.

three times a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and, upon the occasion of Mr. McLean's recent barbecue, afforded a splendid day's sport, ending in a kill of a large red fox, after a fine and hard chase. Their work upon this occasion greatly raised them in the estimation of those who ride, and have tenaciously clung to the belief that the American hound was superior to the English.

Beagle hunting, as the rabbit chase is also growing popular around Washington, and there are several well organized packs of these beautiful little fellows hunting near the capital, and which are likewise well patronized. Probably the two principal packs are the Piedmont beagles at Middleburg and the High Ace beagles, Irving Munford's pack, at the Plains, Va.

Flights of Fancy.

DR. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT of the English department of the University of Pennsylvania was warning a class against the use of mixed metaphors.

"Flights of fancy," he said, "inspired by the war, have contributed many interesting specimens to my already large collection of mixed metaphors. Here are a few:

"The Huns are blonde beasts of the blackest dye. But the worm will turn, hoist them with their own petard and thoroughly cook their goose."

"The spirit of revolt is rampant, and unless we take the bull by the horns it will start a conflagration which will deluge the world in blood."

"All along the ever-flowing stream of history we can discern the silent footprints of the crowned heads of Europe."

The Slacker Gets Back.

FREDERICK PALMER, the war correspondent, was talking, in New York, about England, whence he had just returned.

"Everything is war, war, war over there," he said. "Dear hold the young man who is not in khaki! He has a dreadful time."

"Now and then, though, one of these slackers—as they are called—gets a bit of his own back."

"A slacker, for example, was passing a prison camp near London, when an interned German shouted at him from behind the barbed-wire fence:

"'Hey, Kitchener wants you!'"

"The slacker frowned. 'What?' he said, slacking his comment."

"'Kitchener wants you!' the German repeated."

"Well, by Jove," said the slacker, "he's got you, all right!"

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT'S SCHOOL FOR DEEP SEA DIVERS

THERE is now "in the making" a school for divers at Newport, R. I. The Navy Department has not yet made a final decision as to whether to establish a new school or remodel the old one.

The school will be put in charge of one of the most efficient officers of the United States Navy and provided with all the improved apparatus required. Stress will be laid on deep sea diving, and only qualified divers will be admitted as pupils. Heretofore the requirements have been lax, but are fast growing more severe. A man who can dive from sixty to ninety feet will be permitted to enter.

In the new school there will be no "drilling," a method pronounced out-fashioned, and within the last few months declared hopelessly obsolete.

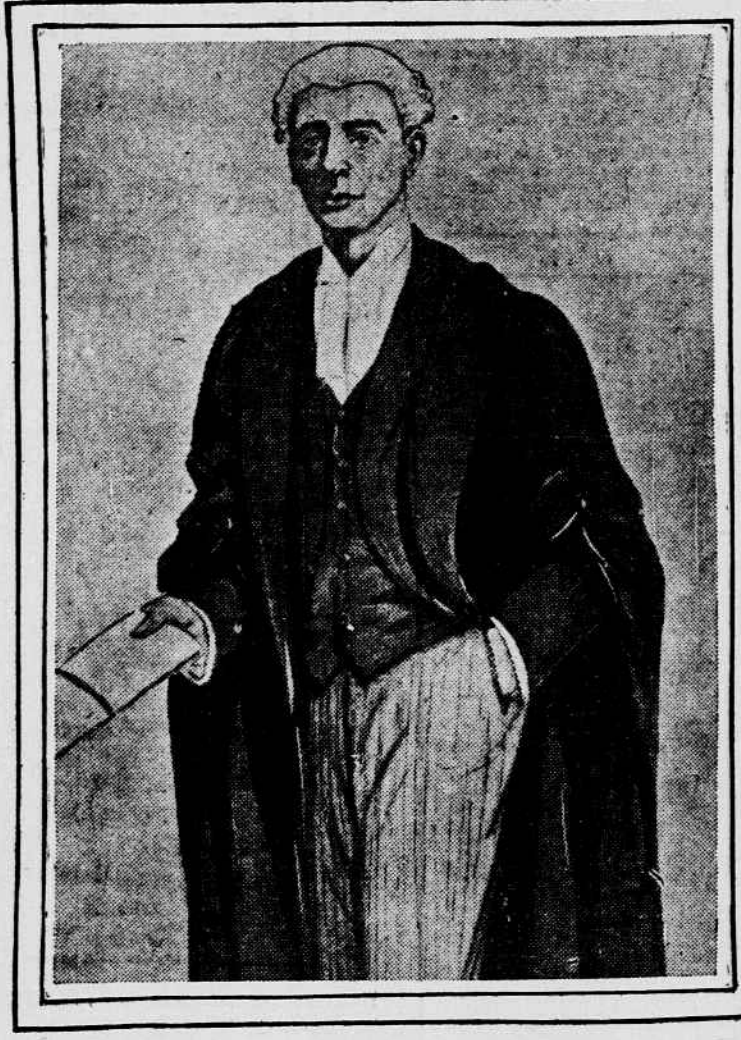
The British were the world's champion divers before Uncle Sam's boys broke their record for deep sea diving and so established the Navy's school. Before Chief Gunner George D. Stillson's inception of the work, 120 feet beneath the water was considered perilous, though it was recorded that expert British seamen had dived to the depth of 200 feet with impunity. At the time the Englishmen were experimenting with 200-foot dives our navy believed 100 feet to be a grave risk. Chief Gunner Stillson was confident that, under the right conditions, a man might go even more than 200 feet into the sea and sustain no injury.

Two great dangers always attendant upon deep sea diving are compression in the depths, and decompression on the way to the surface. Every thirty-three feet, on a descent, a diver must get two atmospheres of air, or he will smother. Carbonic acid gas is the pernicious elder of the divers' ailments. A deep sea diver finds it absolutely essential to be in constant telephonic communication with his co-workers at the surface. A diver's voice, from the depths of the briny deep, sounds strangely metallic and weird. The air envelope himself in air. A noticeable distention of the suit tells him that the pressure of air is too great. On the other hand if the suit presses in against him he knows that the pressure of air is too low. The helmet must be continually supplied with fresh air, and there are both an inlet and an outlet for air—both bring a pressure of eighty pounds to the work.

It is the duty of the public trustee to be faithful and motherly. But over him is the lord chancellor of the empire, now Lord Buckmaster. No "ward in chancery" may do anything without the lord chancellor's consent. If, for instance, a female ward in chancery desires to wed, Lord Buckmaster must give his consent, and if a man dare to marry a ward in chancery without the lord chancellor's assent he may be sent to prison, and so on. But seldom have claimants ever recovered anything. And, often, when they have won their cases they find that the profit is insufficient to pay the legal expenses.

There have been many famous litigations over estates in England, long legal fights for unclaimed wealth, as well as many contests over legitimacy of succession, and so on. But seldom have claimants ever recovered anything. And, often, when they have won their cases they find that the profit is insufficient to pay the legal expenses.

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LORD BUCKMASTER, LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND, WITHOUT WHOSE CONSENT NO "WARD IN CHANCERY" IN ENGLAND CAN MARRY.

distributed broadcast in the United States circulars telling that members of the family of Page had something coming to them. There are, doubtless, thousands of American Pages, from the ambassadors to England and Italy downward. There is no evidence that Walter Hines Page or Thomas Nelson Page ever became imbued with the idea that they had a share in this estate, but most of the other Pages in America, it seemed, did, for the court here was showered with letters from across the water.

As a matter of fact, the Page estates were distributed years ago. An application to reopen the case was made in 1912, but the judge declared it closed forever. That has not served to cut off the claims entirely, however, and frequently a letter on the subject is received from America.

Before the war the average number of letters a year from America was around 5,000. Now there are even more. Most of them come from very poor people, as the character of the correspondence reveals.

Some of the claimants are very persistent. A few years ago there was one Englishman who believed that he was entitled to certain funds which were "lying dormant." He made representations to his member of parliament, asking assistance, but the M. P., knowing the futility, declined to see the claimant. So the claimant determined to force an interview and action. He

garbed himself with great placards, like a sandwich man, with an inscription briefly outlining his case and mentioning the name of the member with whom he demanded an interview. Then he stood for day after day outside the house or common, and, finally, he forced the member to take action. As the member had foreseen, however, there was nothing in it.

Sometimes money is actually recovered. There are, of course, money-lying dormant which really belong to some one and which are simply tied up during litigation, which often stretches out for years. These cannot possibly belong to "missing heirs."

Often enough the sum is found to be very small. A next-of-kin agent will seek the house or common, and, finally, he will tell them that a certain sum, probably the agent himself does not know how much, is waiting only for the legal claimant. The heir will naturally do all he can, and spend considerable sums, but the court sets forth all of them, from those of a few cents, overlooked in some settlement, to the rounder sums where the heirs are actually missing.

There are some sums still in the possession of the government which have been there for centuries, but they are all small and can never be recovered. There are other things besides money,

the water which is contained in this "drinking" method pronounced out-fashioned, and within the last few months declared hopelessly obsolete.

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